

NEWCASTLE-EMLYN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council IEUAN J. LUKE, LL.B.
Medical Officer S. ROBERTS.
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor .. .W. J. GRIFFITHS.
Rating Officer Mrs. P. M. DAVIES.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT FOR 1955

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

I beg to submit my annual report for the year ended December 31st, 1955.

SOCIAL CONDITONS OF THE AREA.

Area—208 acres.
Population—760.
Number of inhabited houses—262.
Rateable value—£3,271.
Product of a penny rate—£12.9067.

Newcastle-Emlyn is a market town situated in the Teifi Valley in West Carmarthenshire, serving the needs of a scattered agricultural community living in the adjacent countryside, which includes a part of South Cardiganshire and of North Pembrokeshire. A milk products factory, a shirt factory, an egg-grading station, an omnibus depot, and various shops and businesses provide employment for a good number. A branch railway line for goods traffic runs to the town and there is one primary school in the area. The town possesses excellent facilities for the marketing of animals and marts are held regularly. It is, in addition, a popular tourist and fishermen's resort and there is an influx of visitors during the holiday season. A fair proportion of residents have come to live here in retirement. Development of the town has been impaired by the smallness of the urban district.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS : Total live births 5 (3 males and 2 females); 1 female child was illegitimate; the crude birth-rate was 6.5 per 1000 and the standardised birth-rate used for comparison with the birth-rate of other areas and calculated with the aid of a comparability factor (1.31) provided by the Register General, was 8.6 per 1000. The birth-rate for England and Wales was 15.0 per 1000. There were no stillbirths and no deaths of infants under four weeks or under one year of age.

DEATHS : Deaths during the year totalled 17 (6 males and 11 females) giving a crude death-rate of 22.3 per 1000; the standardised death-rate was 15.4 per 1000 (comparability factor 0.69); the death-rate for England and Wales was 11.7 per 1000.

The causes of death were :

Causes of death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Vascular lesions of nervous system (strokes) ..	1	6	7
Heart disease	4	1	5
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Malignant disease (uterus)		1	1
Bronchitis		1	1
Other diseases		1	1
			17

Average age at death — 73.0 years.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospital, laboratory and ambulance facilities. The district is served mainly by the West Wales General Hospital, Carmarthen (20 miles distant), and Cardigan Hospital (10 miles), with provision for cases

of infectious diseases at Tumble Isolation Hospital. Maternity beds are available at the two former hospitals. Cases of mental disease receive treatment at St. David's Hospital, Carmarthen. The nearest treatment centre for venereal diseases is at Llanelly.

Bacteriological and pathological investigations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Penlan Road, Carmarthen, and the Pathological Department, Glangwili, respectively and the resources of these laboratories are always available to medical practitioners. Transport facilities are provided by ambulances based at Carmarthen and Llandyssul, the service being under the control of the County Council.

Home Nursing, Midwifery and Infant Welfare. Home nursing and midwifery are undertaken by one district nurse/midwife who is resident in the town. The County Council provides one health visitor for Newcastle-Emlyn and adjacent villages. An Infant Welfare Clinic is held here fortnightly. No ante-natal clinic has been established in Newcastle-Emlyn.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

A number of cases of mild scarlet fever occurred amongst the younger children towards the end of the year. No cases of polio myelitis, food poisoning or of diphtheria were notified. With regard to the latter disease I would again urge parents to have their children immunised during infancy, with a further boosting dose at school age, as only thus can protection be assured. At present we are enjoying a relative freedom from diphtheria but the disease is not eradicated—it may be said to be lying in wait.

Notifications received during the year were as follows :

Scarlet fever—6 cases.
Measles—2 cases.
Whooping Cough—2 cases.
Dysentery (Salmonella)—1 case.
Pneumonia—1 case.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the register at the beginning and end of the year were as follows :

Date	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Jan. 1, 1955	6 males ; 3 females	1 male ; 1 female	11
Dec. 31, 1955	5 males ; 3 females	1 female	9

During the year one case removed from the district and another was reported cured. There were no fresh notifications and no deaths during 1955. A Chest Clinic is held at Newcastle-Emlyn twice a month when a specialist examines any patients referred by local medical practitioners.

Administration of Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Routine inspections performed by the Sanitary Inspector during the year in connection with the above Acts were as follows :

(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health—

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 are enforced by Local Authority	3	2	0	0
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	23	11	0	0
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	0	0	0	0
Total . .	26	13	0	0

- (2) Cases in which defects were found : Nil.
(3) Outwork : Nil.

SANITARY CONDITIONS

HOUSING. No new houses were erected during the year, and the number owned by this Authority remains at 6. Ministry approval has been obtained for the erection of a further six houses on the New Road site and a building tender has been accepted by the Council. Two applications were received for improvement grants under the Housing Act 1949 and these were approved. A survey under the Housing Repairs Act 1954, was made and 17 cottages were listed defective.

WATER SUPPLY. Normally the town is served with an ample supply of wholesome water throughout the year. Owing to the exceptionally dry summer, however, there was some shortage in houses on high ground at peak consumption periods. Reports on samples of water sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Carmarthen, were as follows :

Date.	Source.	Result.
May 16, 1955	Public stand post	Satisfactory
Oct. 12, 1955	do.	Unsatisfactory
Oct. 27, 1955	Penbuarth Reservoir	Unsatisfactory
Nov. 17, 1955	Cwm Reservoir	Satisfactory

In view of the unsatisfactory October samples, an inspection of the catchment area at Penbuarth was made but no source of contamination was found, and a subsequent test, a few weeks later, proved satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE. The sewerage system continues to operate without serious trouble, minor repairs being carried out as the necessity arises. Parts of the town are without water carriage and there is some resultant pollution of the Ffinant and Arad streams. Following a joint meeting of representatives of the Teifside Rural District Council and of this Council, a joint sewerage scheme for Adpar and Newcastle-Emlyn was approved in principle. Plans have been commissioned for new public conveniences to replace the old building in Market Place.

SCAVENGING and RODENT CONTROL. Refuse is collected once weekly by our own covered refuse vehicle and conveyed to the dumping site, a quarter of a mile outside the town, direct labour being employed. The Council is now without a rodent operator, but cases of infestation discovered are dealt with by our own employees under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

GENERAL REMARKS

The year was uneventful and no new schemes were placed under construction. I am pleased to report that the health of the community remained good.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. ROBERTS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.M.S.S.A.,
Medical Officer of Health.

